OPERATING SYSTEMS

Lesson 7: VIRTUAL MEMORY

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CONTENT

- Background
- Demand Paging
- Copy-on-Write
- Page Replacement
- Allocation of Frames
- Thrashing
- Memory-Mapped Files
- Allocating Kernel Memory

Objectives

- Define virtual memory and describe its benefits.
- Illustrate how pages are loaded into memory using demand paging.
- Apply the FIFO, optimal, and LRU page-replacement algorithms.
- Describe the working set of a process, and explain how it is related to program locality.

Background

- Code needs to be in memory to execute, but entire program rarely used
 - Error code, unusual routines, large data structures
- Entire program code not needed at same time
- Consider ability to execute partially-loaded program
 - Program no longer constrained by limits of physical memory
 - Each program takes less memory while running -> more programs run at the same time
 - Increased CPU utilization and throughput with no increase in response time or turnaround time
 - Less I/O needed to load or swap programs into memory -> each user program runs faster

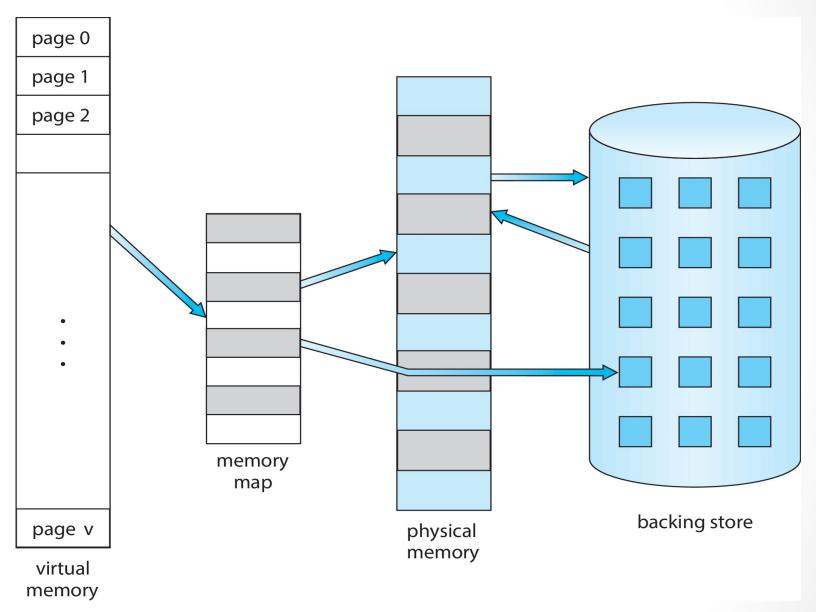
Virtual memory

- Virtual memory separation of user logical memory from physical memory
 - Only part of the program needs to be in memory for execution
 - Logical address space can therefore be much larger than physical address space
 - Allows address spaces to be shared by several processes
 - Allows for more efficient process creation
 - More programs running concurrently
 - Less I/O needed to load or swap processes

Virtual memory (Cont.)

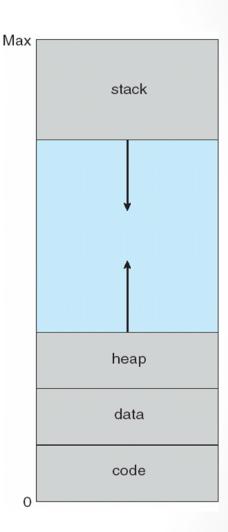
- Virtual address space logical view of how process is stored in memory
 - Usually start at address 0, contiguous addresses until end of space
 - Meanwhile, physical memory organized in page frames
 - MMU must map logical to physical
- Virtual memory can be implemented via:
 - Demand paging
 - Demand segmentation

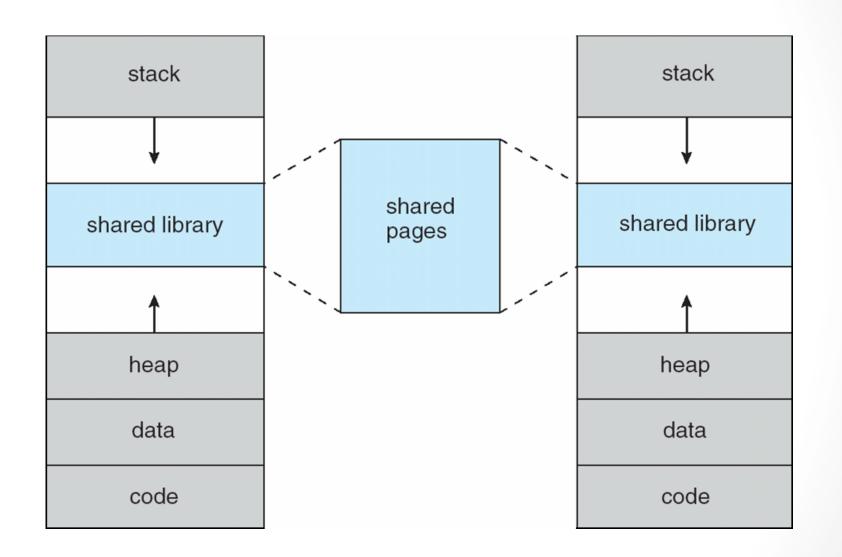
Virtual Memory That is Larger Than Physical Memory



Virtual-address Space

- Usually design logical address space for stack to start at Max logical address and grow "down" while heap grows "up"
 - Maximizes address space use
 - Unused address space between the two is hole
 - No physical memory needed until heap or stack grows to a given new page
- Enables sparse address spaces with holes left for growth, dynamically linked libraries, etc
- System libraries shared via mapping into virtual address space
- Shared memory by mapping pages read-write into virtual address space
- Pages can be shared during fork(), speeding process creation





Shared Library Using Virtual Memory

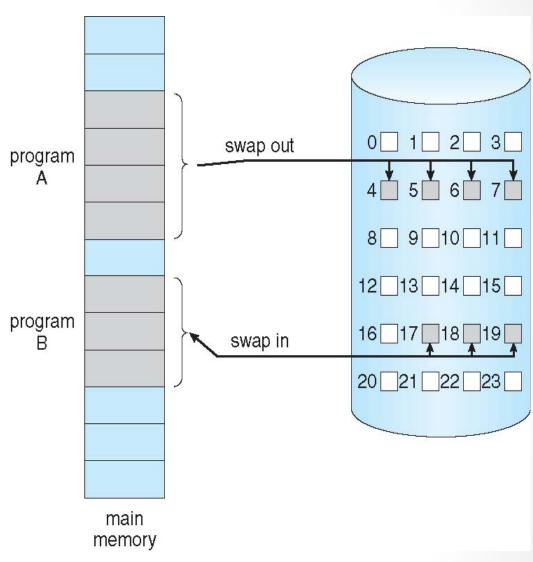
DEMAND PAGING

Demand Paging

- Could bring entire process into memory at load time
- Or bring a page into memory only when it is needed
 - Less I/O needed, no unnecessary I/O
 - Less memory needed
 - Faster response
 - More users
- Similar to paging system with swapping (diagram on right)
- Page is needed ⇒ reference to it
 - invalid reference ⇒ abort
 - not-in-memory ⇒ bring to memory
- Lazy swapper never swaps a page into memory unless page will be needed
 - Swapper that deals with pages is a pager

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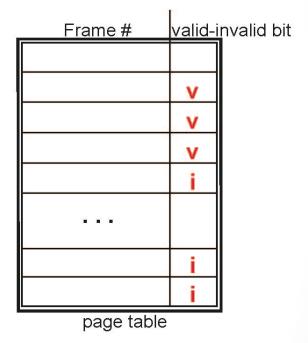


Basic Concepts

- With swapping, pager guesses which pages will be used before swapping out again
- Instead, pager brings in only those pages into memory
- How to determine that set of pages?
 - Need new MMU functionality to implement demand paging
- If pages needed are already memory resident
 - No difference from non demand-paging
- If page needed and not memory resident
 - Need to detect and load the page into memory from storage
 - Without changing program behavior
 - Without programmer needing to change code

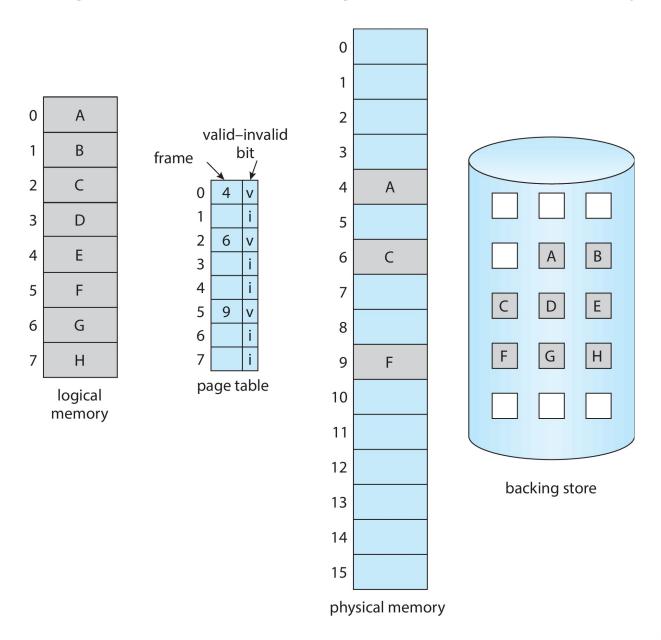
Valid-Invalid Bit

- With each page table entry a valid—invalid bit is associated
 (v ⇒ in-memory memory resident, i ⇒ not-in-memory)
- Initially valid—invalid bit is set to i on all entries
- Example of a page table snapshot:



 During MMU address translation, if valid—invalid bit in page table entry is i ⇒ page fault

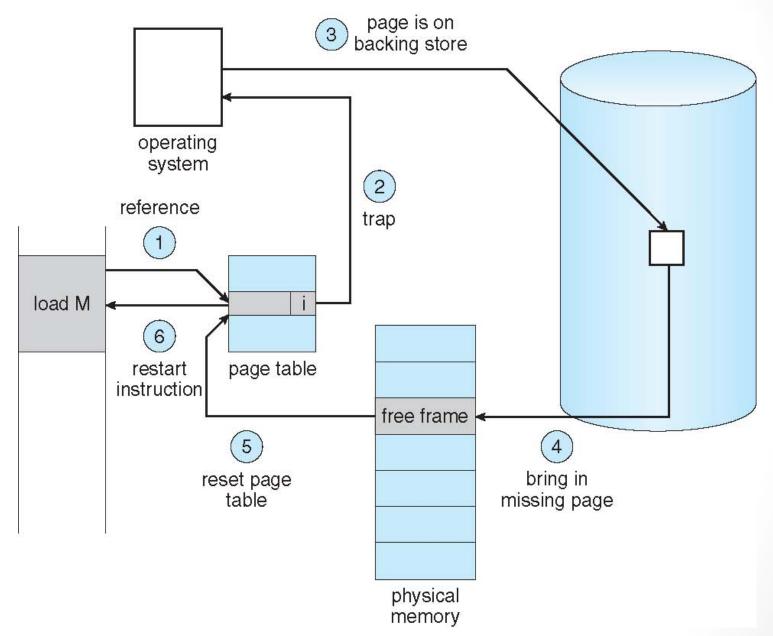
Page Table When Some Pages Are Not in Main Memory



Steps in Handling Page Fault

- 1. If there is a reference to a page, first reference to that page will trap to operating system
 - Page fault
- 2. Operating system looks at another table to decide:
 - Invalid reference ⇒ abort
 - Just not in memory
- 3. Find free frame
- 4. Swap page into frame via scheduled disk operation
- 5. Reset tables to indicate page now in memory Set validation bit = v
- 6. Restart the instruction that caused the page fault

Steps in Handling a Page Fault (Cont.)

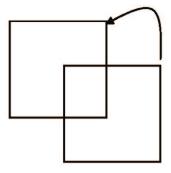


Aspects of Demand Paging

- Extreme case start process with no pages in memory
 - OS sets instruction pointer to first instruction of process, nonmemory-resident -> page fault
 - And for every other process pages on first access
 - Pure demand paging
- Actually, a given instruction could access multiple pages -> multiple page faults
 - Consider fetch and decode of instruction which adds 2 numbers from memory and stores result back to memory
 - Pain decreased because of locality of reference
- Hardware support needed for demand paging
 - Page table with valid / invalid bit
 - Secondary memory (swap device with swap space)
 - Instruction restart

Instruction Restart

- Consider an instruction that could access several different locations
 - Block move



- Auto increment/decrement location
- Restart the whole operation?
 - What if source and destination overlap?

Free-Frame List

- When a page fault occurs, the operating system must bring the desired page from secondary storage into main memory.
- Most operating systems maintain a free-frame list -- a pool of free frames for satisfying such requests.

head
$$\longrightarrow$$
 7 \longrightarrow 97 \longrightarrow 15 \longrightarrow 126 \cdots \longrightarrow 75

- Operating system typically allocate free frames using a technique known as zero-fill-on-demand -- the content of the frames zeroed-out before being allocated.
- When a system starts up, all available memory is placed on the free-frame list.

Stages in Demand Paging – Worse Case

- 1. Trap to the operating system
- 2. Save the user registers and process state
- 3. Determine that the interrupt was a page fault
- 4. Check that the page reference was legal and determine the location of the page on the disk
- 5. Issue a read from the disk to a free frame:
 - 1. Wait in a queue for this device until the read request is serviced
 - 2. Wait for the device seek and/or latency time
 - 3. Begin the transfer of the page to a free frame

Stages in Demand Paging (Cont.)

- 6. While waiting, allocate the CPU to some other user
- 7. Receive an interrupt from the disk I/O subsystem (I/O completed)
- 8. Save the registers and process state for the other user
- 9. Determine that the interrupt was from the disk
- 10.Correct the page table and other tables to show page is now in memory
- 11. Wait for the CPU to be allocated to this process again
- 12. Restore the user registers, process state, and new page table, and then resume the interrupted instruction

Performance of Demand Paging

- Three major activities
 - Service the interrupt careful coding means just several hundred instructions needed
 - Read the page lots of time
 - Restart the process again just a small amount of time
- Page Fault Rate $0 \le p \le 1$
 - if p = 0 no page faults
 - if p = 1, every reference is a fault
- Effective Access Time (EAT)

```
EAT = (1 - p) x memory access
+ p (page fault overhead
+ swap page out
+ swap page in )
```

Demand Paging Example

- Memory access time = 200 nanoseconds
- Average page-fault service time = 8 milliseconds
- EAT = $(1 p) \times 200 + p (8 \text{ milliseconds})$ = $(1 - p \times 200 + p \times 8,000,000$ = $200 + p \times 7,999,800$
- If one access out of 1,000 causes a page fault, then
 EAT = 8.2 microseconds.

This is a slowdown by a factor of 40!!

- If want performance degradation < 10 percent
 - $220 > 200 + 7,999,800 \times p$ $20 > 7,999,800 \times p$
 - p < .0000025
 - < one page fault in every 400,000 memory accesses

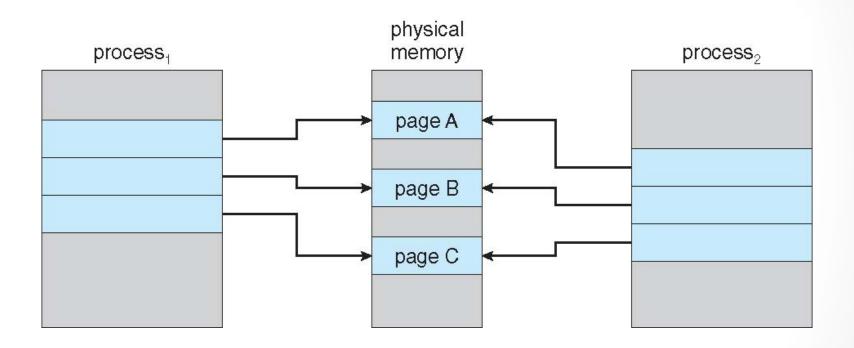
Demand Paging Optimizations

- Swap space I/O faster than file system I/O even if on the same device
 - Swap allocated in larger chunks, less management needed than file system
- Copy entire process image to swap space at process load time
 - Then page in and out of swap space
 - Used in older BSD Unix
- Demand page in from program binary on disk, but discard rather than paging out when freeing frame
 - Used in Solaris and current BSD
 - Still need to write to swap space
 - Pages not associated with a file (like stack and heap) anonymous memory
 - Pages modified in memory but not yet written back to the file system
- Mobile systems
 - Typically don't support swapping
 - Instead, demand page from file system and reclaim read-only pages (such as code)

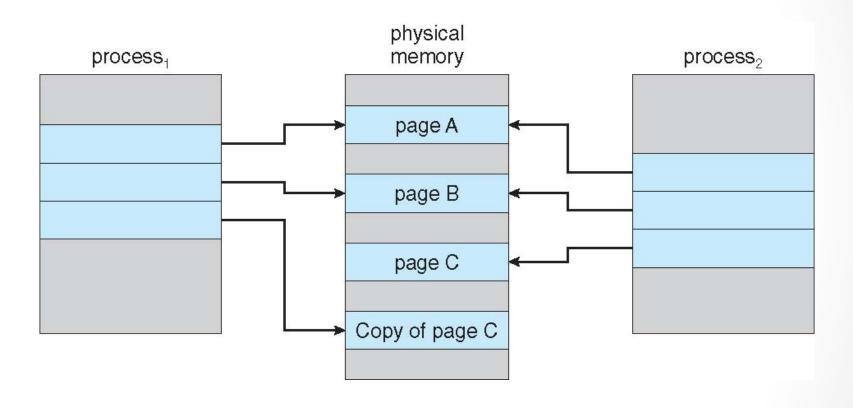
Copy-on-Write

- Copy-on-Write (COW) allows both parent and child processes to initially share the same pages in memory
 - If either process modifies a shared page, only then is the page copied
- COW allows more efficient process creation as only modified pages are copied
- In general, free pages are allocated from a pool of zero-fill-on-demand pages
 - Pool should always have free frames for fast demand page execution
 - Don't want to have to free a frame as well as other processing on page fault
 - Why zero-out a page before allocating it?
- vfork() variation on fork() system call has parent suspend and child using copy-on-write address space of parent
 - Designed to have child call exec()
 - Very efficient

Before Process 1 Modifies Page C



After Process 1 Modifies Page C



PAGE REPLACEMENT

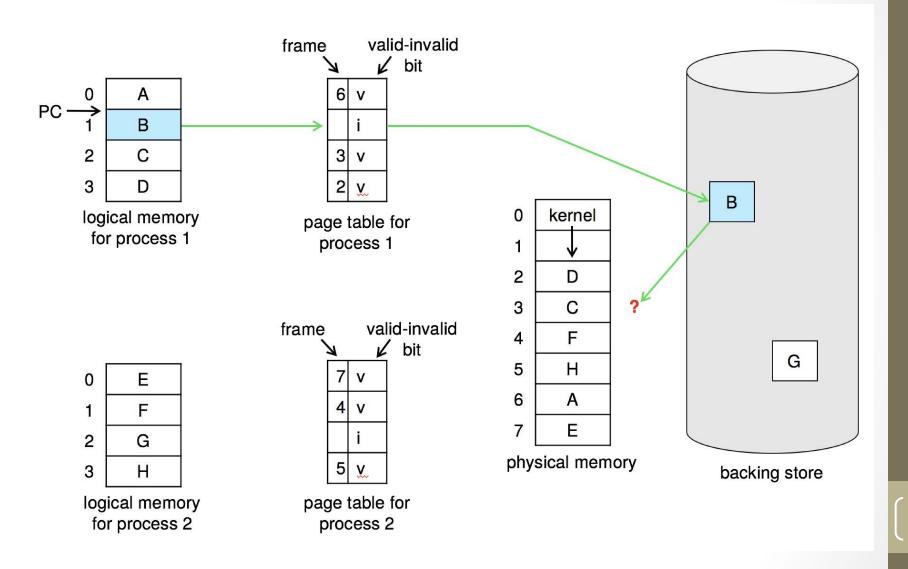
What Happens if There is no Free Frame?

- Used up by process pages
- Also in demand from the kernel, I/O buffers, etc
- How much to allocate to each?
- Page replacement find some page in memory, but not really in use, page it out
 - Algorithm terminate? swap out? replace the page?
 - Performance want an algorithm which will result in minimum number of page faults
- Same page may be brought into memory several times

Page Replacement

- Prevent over-allocation of memory by modifying page-fault service routine to include page replacement
- Use modify (dirty) bit to reduce overhead of page transfers only modified pages are written to disk
- Page replacement completes separation between logical memory and physical memory – large virtual memory can be provided on a smaller physical memory

Need For Page Replacement

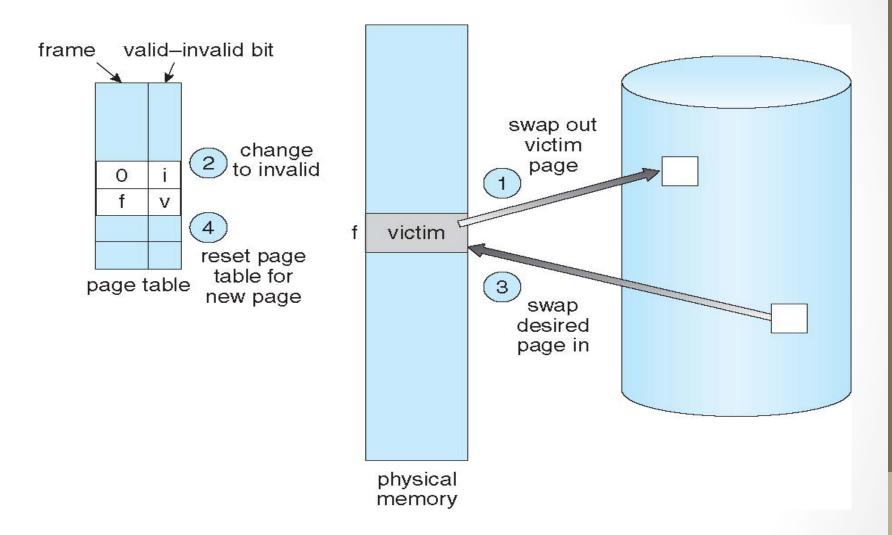


Basic Page Replacement

- 1. Find the location of the desired page on disk
- 2. Find a free frame:
 - If there is a free frame, use it
 - If there is no free frame, use a page replacement algorithm to select a victim frame
 - Write victim frame to disk if dirty
- 3. Bring the desired page into the (newly) free frame; update the page and frame tables
- Continue the process by restarting the instruction that caused the trap

Note now potentially 2 page transfers for page fault – increasing EAT

Page Replacement

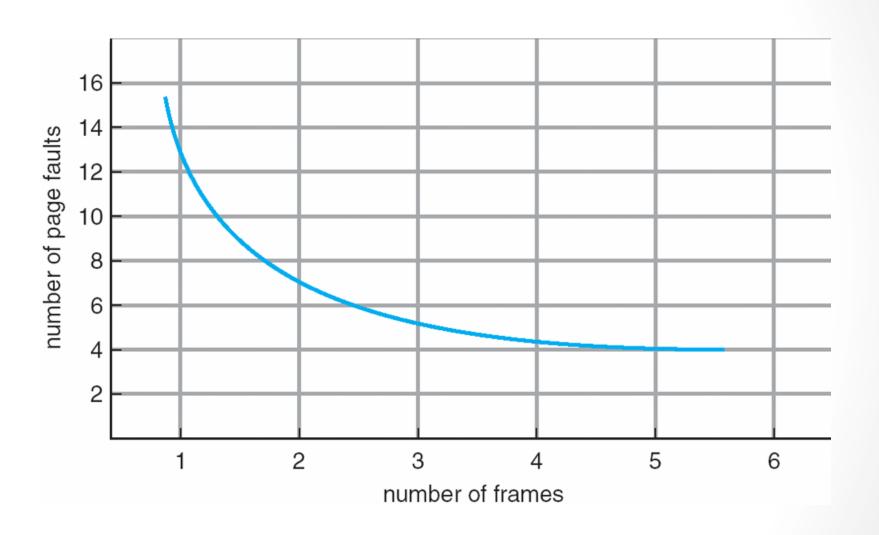


Page and Frame Replacement Algorithms

- Frame-allocation algorithm determines
 - How many frames to give each process
 - Which frames to replace
- Page-replacement algorithm
 - Want lowest page-fault rate on both first access and re-access
- Evaluate algorithm by running it on a particular string of memory references (reference string) and computing the number of page faults on that string
 - String is just page numbers, not full addresses
 - Repeated access to the same page does not cause a page fault
 - Results depend on number of frames available
- In all our examples, the reference string of referenced page numbers is

7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1

Graph of Page Faults Versus The Number of Frames



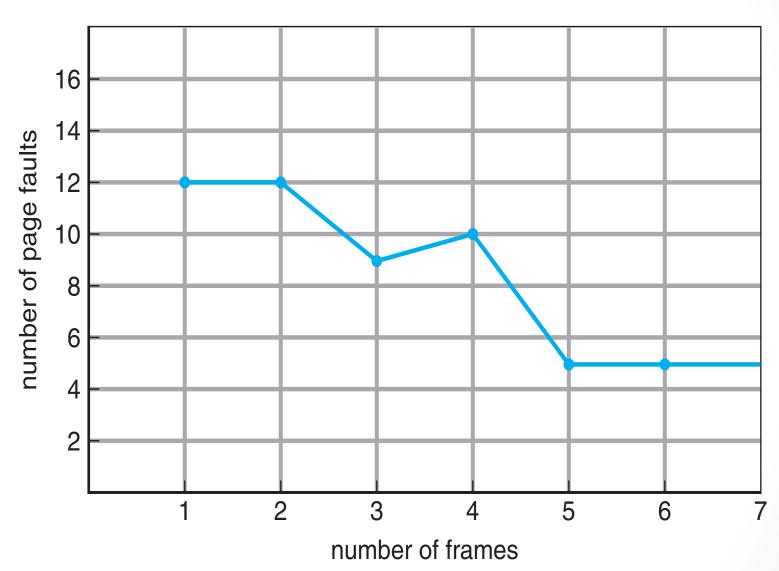
First-In-First-Out (FIFO) Algorithm

- Reference string: 7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1
- 3 frames (3 pages can be in memory at a time per process)

15 page faults\

- Can vary by reference string: consider 1,2,3,4,1,2,5,1,2,3,4,5
 - Adding more frames can cause more page faults!
 - Belady's Anomaly
- How to track ages of pages?
 - Just use a FIFO queue

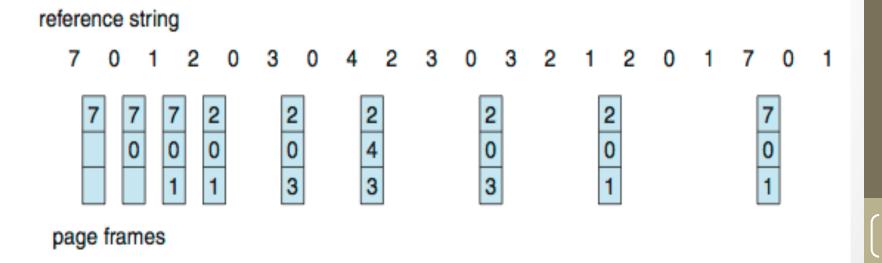
FIFO Illustrating Belady's Anomal



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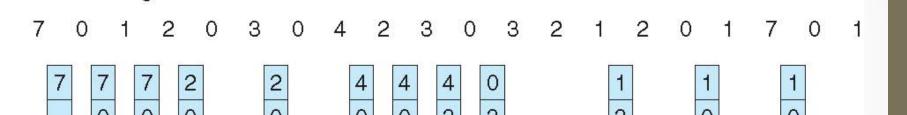
Optimal Algorithm

- Replace page that will not be used for longest period of time
 - 9 is optimal for the example
- How do you know this?
 - Can't read the future
- Used for measuring how well your algorithm performs



Least Recently Used (LRU) Algorithm

- Use past knowledge rather than future
- Replace page that has not been used in the most amount of time
- Associate time of last use with each page



page frames

reference string

- 12 faults better than FIFO but worse than OPT
- Generally good algorithm and frequently used
- But how to implement?

LRU Algorithm (Cont.)

- Counter implementation
 - Every page entry has a counter; every time page is referenced through this entry, copy the clock into the counter
 - When a page needs to be changed, look at the counters to find smallest value
 - Search through table needed
- Stack implementation
 - Keep a stack of page numbers in a double link form:
 - Page referenced:
 - move it to the top
 - · requires 6 pointers to be changed
 - But each update more expensive
 - No search for replacement
- LRU and OPT are cases of stack algorithms that don't have Belady's Anomaly

OS

Use Of A Stack to Record Most Recent Page References

reference string

4 7 0 7 1 0 1 2 1 2 7 1 2 7 7 a b

1 2 0 1 7 0 4 4

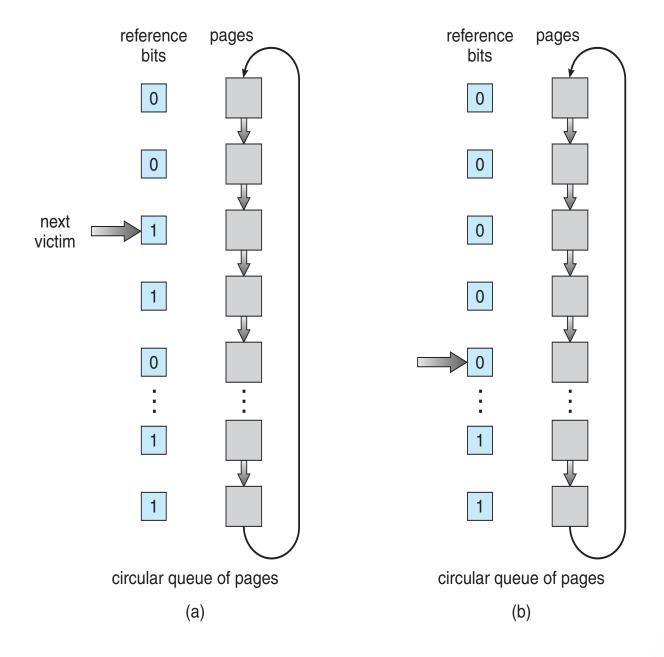
stack stack before after a b

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LRU Approximation Algorithms

- LRU needs special hardware and still slow
- Reference bit
 - With each page associate a bit, initially = 0
 - When page is referenced bit set to 1
 - Replace any with reference bit = 0 (if one exists)
 - We do not know the order, however
- Second-chance algorithm
 - Generally FIFO, plus hardware-provided reference bit
 - Clock replacement
 - If page to be replaced has
 - Reference bit = 0 -> replace it
 - reference bit = 1 then:
 - set reference bit 0, leave page in memory
 - replace next page, subject to same rules

Second-Chance (clock) Page-Replacement Algorithm



Enhanced Second-Chance Algorithm

- Improve algorithm by using reference bit and modify bit (if available) in concert
- Take ordered pair (reference, modify):
 - (0, 0) neither recently used not modified best page to replace
 - (0, 1) not recently used but modified not quite as good, must write out before replacement
 - (1, 0) recently used but clean probably will be used again soon
 - (1, 1) recently used and modified probably will be used again soon and need to write out before replacement
- When page replacement called for, use the clock scheme but use the four classes replace page in lowest non-empty class
 - Might need to search circular queue several times

Counting Algorithms

- Keep a counter of the number of references that have been made to each page
 - Not common
- Lease Frequently Used (LFU) Algorithm: replaces page with smallest count
- Most Frequently Used (MFU) Algorithm: based on the argument that the page with the smallest count was probably just brought in and has yet to be used

Page-Buffering Algorithms

- Keep a pool of free frames, always
 - Then frame available when needed, not found at fault time
 - Read page into free frame and select victim to evict and add to free pool
 - When convenient, evict victim
- Possibly, keep list of modified pages
 - When backing store otherwise idle, write pages there and set to non-dirty
- Possibly, keep free frame contents intact and note what is in them
 - If referenced again before reused, no need to load contents again from disk
 - Generally useful to reduce penalty if wrong victim frame selected

Applications and Page Replacement

- All of these algorithms have OS guessing about future page access
- Some applications have better knowledge i.e. databases
- Memory intensive applications can cause double buffering
 - OS keeps copy of page in memory as I/O buffer
 - Application keeps page in memory for its own work
- Operating system can given direct access to the disk, getting out of the way of the applications
 - Raw disk mode
- Bypasses buffering, locking, etc

ALLOCATION OF FRAMES

Allocation of Frames

- Each process needs minimum number of frames
- Example: IBM 370 6 pages to handle SS MOVE instruction:
 - instruction is 6 bytes, might span 2 pages
 - 2 pages to handle from
 - 2 pages to handle to
- *Maximum* of course is total frames in the system
- Two major allocation schemes
 - fixed allocation
 - priority allocation
- Many variations

Fixed Allocation

- Equal allocation For example, if there are 100 frames (after allocating frames for the OS) and 5 processes, give each process 20 frames
 - Keep some as free frame buffer pool
- Proportional allocation Allocate according to the size of process
 - Dynamic as degree of multiprogramming, process sizes change

$$s_i = \text{size of process } p_i$$

 $S = \sum s_i$
 $m = \text{total number of frames}$
 $a_i = \text{allocation for } p_i = \frac{s_i}{S} \times m$
 $m = 64$
 $s_1 = 10$
 $s_2 = 127$
 $a_1 = \frac{10}{137} \times 62 \approx 4$
 $a_2 = \frac{127}{137} \times 62 \approx 57$

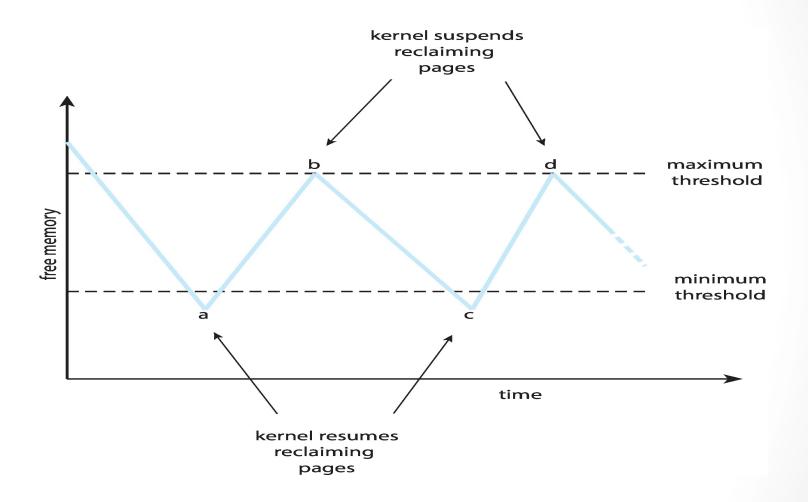
Global vs. Local Allocation

- Global replacement process selects a replacement frame from the set of all frames; one process can take a frame from another
 - But then process execution time can vary greatly
 - But greater throughput so more common
- Local replacement each process selects from only its own set of allocated frames
 - More consistent per-process performance
 - But possibly underutilized memory

Reclaiming Pages

- A strategy to implement global page-replacement policy
- All memory requests are satisfied from the free-frame list, rather than waiting for the list to drop to zero before we begin selecting pages for replacement,
- Page replacement is triggered when the list falls below a certain threshold.
- This strategy attempts to ensure there is always sufficient free memory to satisfy new requests.

Reclaiming Pages Example



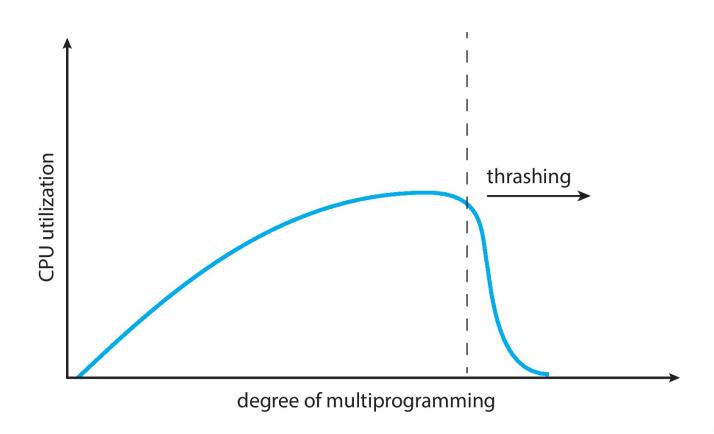
THRASHING

Thrashing

- If a process does not have "enough" pages, the page-fault rate is very high
 - Page fault to get page
 - Replace existing frame
 - But quickly need replaced frame back
 - This leads to:
 - Low CPU utilization
 - Operating system thinking that it needs to increase the degree of multiprogramming
 - Another process added to the system

Thrashing (Cont.)

Thrashing. A process is busy swapping pages in and out



Demand Paging and Thrashing

Why does demand paging work?

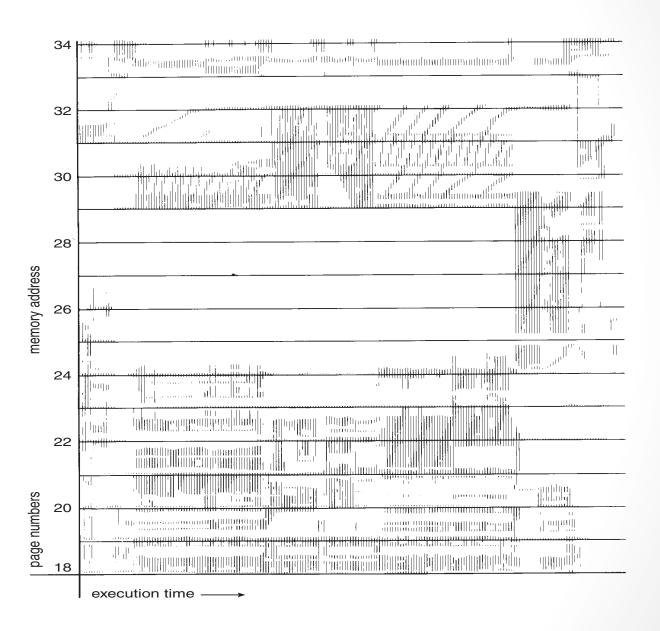
Locality model

- Process migrates from one locality to another
- Localities may overlap
- Why does thrashing occur?

 Σ size of locality > total memory size

Limit effects by using local or priority page replacement

Locality In A Memory-Reference Pattern



Working-Set Model

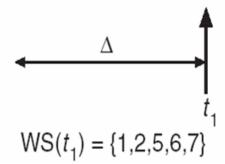
- Δ = working-set window = a fixed number of page references Example: 10,000 instructions
- WSS_i (working set of Process P_i) = total number of pages referenced in the most recent Δ (varies in time)
 - if Δ too small will not encompass entire locality
 - if Δ too large will encompass several localities
 - if $\Delta = \infty \Rightarrow$ will encompass entire program
- $D = \Sigma WSS_i = \text{total demand frames}$
 - Approximation of locality

Working-Set Model (Cont.)

- if $D > m \Rightarrow$ Thrashing
- Policy if D > m, then suspend or swap out one of the processes

page reference table

...261577775162341234443444132344443...



$$\Delta$$

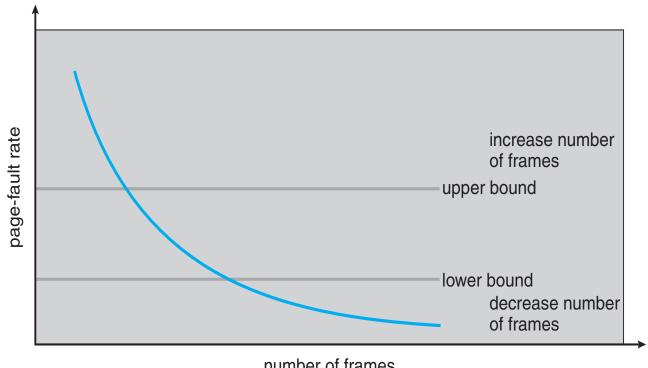
$$WS(t_2) = \{3,4\}$$

Keeping Track of the Working Set

- Approximate with interval timer + a reference bit
- Example: $\Delta = 10,000$
 - Timer interrupts after every 5000 time units
 - Keep in memory 2 bits for each page
 - Whenever a timer interrupts copy and sets the values of all reference bits to 0
 - If one of the bits in memory = $1 \Rightarrow$ page in working set
- Why is this not completely accurate?
- Improvement = 10 bits and interrupt every 1000 time units

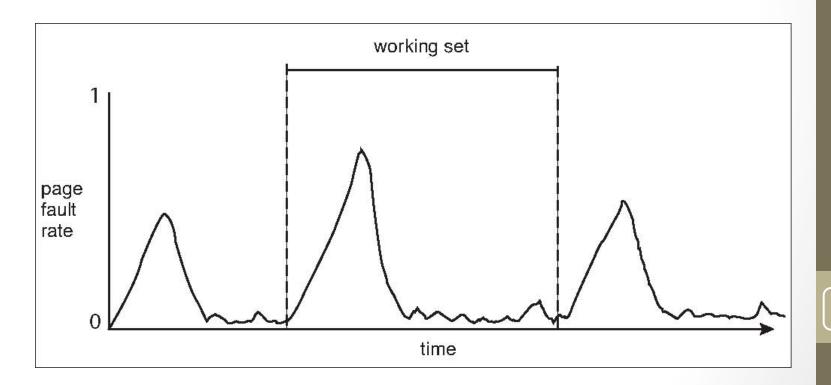
Page-Fault Frequency

- More direct approach than WSS
- Establish "acceptable" page-fault frequency (PFF) rate and use local replacement policy
 - If actual rate too low, process loses frame
 - If actual rate too high, process gains frame



Working Sets and Page Fault Rates

- Direct relationship between working set of a process and its page-fault rate
- Working set changes over time
- Peaks and valleys over time



ALLOCATING KERNEL MEMORY

Allocating Kernel Memory

- Treated differently from user memory
- Often allocated from a free-memory pool
 - Kernel requests memory for structures of varying sizes
 - Some kernel memory needs to be contiguous
 - I.e. for device I/O

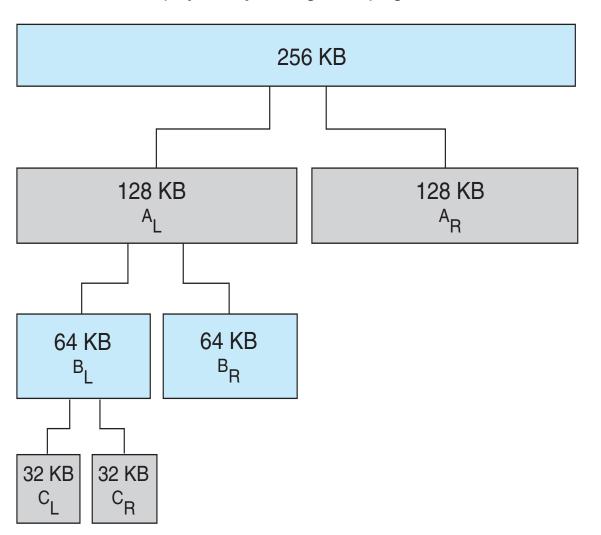
Buddy System

- Allocates memory from fixed-size segment consisting of physicallycontiguous pages
- Memory allocated using power-of-2 allocator
 - Satisfies requests in units sized as power of 2
 - Request rounded up to next highest power of 2
 - When smaller allocation needed than is available, current chunk split into two buddies of next-lower power of 2
 - Continue until appropriate sized chunk available
- For example, assume 256KB chunk available, kernel requests 21KB
 - Split into A_{L and} A_R of 128KB each
 - One further divided into B_L and B_R of 64KB
 - One further into C_L and C_R of 32KB each one used to satisfy request
- Advantage quickly coalesce unused chunks into larger chunk
- Disadvantage fragmentation

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Buddy System Allocator

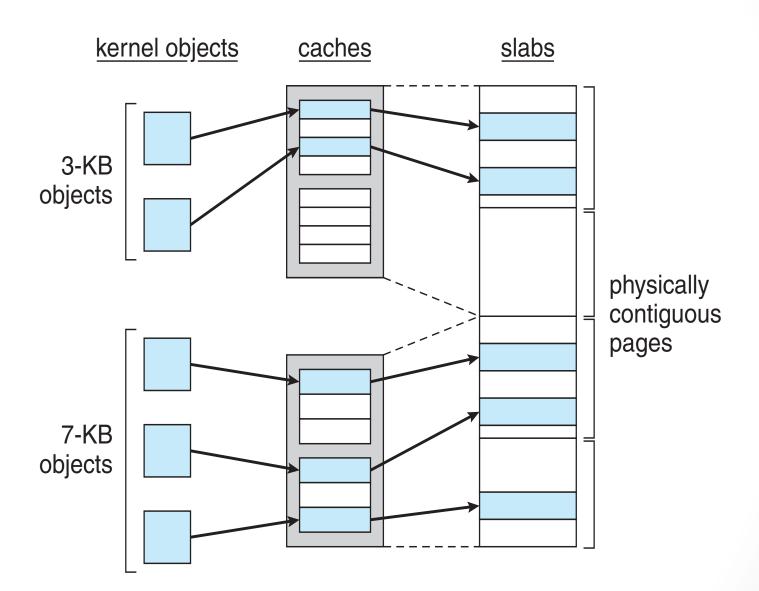
physically contiguous pages



Slab Allocator

- Alternate strategy
- Slab is one or more physically contiguous pages
- Cache consists of one or more slabs
- Single cache for each unique kernel data structure
 - Each cache filled with objects instantiations of the data structure
- When cache created, filled with objects marked as free
- When structures stored, objects marked as used
- If slab is full of used objects, next object allocated from empty slab
 - If no empty slabs, new slab allocated
- Benefits include no fragmentation, fast memory request satisfaction

Slab Allocation



Slab Allocator in Linux

- For example process descriptor is of type struct task_struct
- Approx 1.7KB of memory
- New task -> allocate new struct from cache
 - Will use existing free struct task_struct
- Slab can be in three possible states
 - 1. Full all used
 - 2. Empty all free
 - 3. Partial mix of free and used
- Upon request, slab allocator
 - 1. Uses free struct in partial slab
 - 2. If none, takes one from empty slab
 - 3. If no empty slab, create new empty

Slab Allocator in Linux (Cont.)

- Slab started in Solaris, now wide-spread for both kernel mode and user memory in various OSes
- Linux 2.2 had SLAB, now has both SLOB and SLUB allocators
 - SLOB for systems with limited memory
 - Simple List of Blocks maintains 3 list objects for small, medium, large objects
 - SLUB is performance-optimized SLAB removes per-CPU queues, metadata stored in page structure

Other Considerations

- Prepaging
- Page size
- TLB reach
- ■Inverted page table
- Program structure
- ■I/O interlock and page locking

Prepaging

- To reduce the large number of page faults that occurs at process startup
- Prepage all or some of the pages a process will need, before they are referenced
- But if prepaged pages are unused, I/O and memory was wasted
- Assume s pages are prepaged and a of the pages is used
 - Is cost of s * a save pages faults > or < than the cost of prepaging
 - s * (1- a) unnecessary pages?
 - a near zero ⇒ prepaging loses

Page Size

- Sometimes OS designers have a choice
 - Especially if running on custom-built CPU
- Page size selection must take into consideration:
 - Fragmentation
 - Page table size
 - Resolution
 - I/O overhead
 - Number of page faults
 - Locality
 - TLB size and effectiveness
- Always power of 2, usually in the range 2¹² (4,096 bytes) to 2²² (4,194,304 bytes)
- On average, growing over time

TLB Reach

- TLB Reach The amount of memory accessible from the TLB
- TLB Reach = (TLB Size) X (Page Size)
- Ideally, the working set of each process is stored in the TLB
 - Otherwise there is a high degree of page faults
- Increase the Page Size
 - This may lead to an increase in fragmentation as not all applications require a large page size
- Provide Multiple Page Sizes
 - This allows applications that require larger page sizes the opportunity to use them without an increase in fragmentation

Program Structure

- Program structure
 - int[128,128] data;
 - Each row is stored in one page
 - Program 1

for
$$(j = 0; j < 128; j++)$$

for $(i = 0; i < 128; i++)$
data $[i,j] = 0;$

 $128 \times 128 = 16,384$ page faults

Program 2

```
for (i = 0; i < 128; i++)

for (j = 0; j < 128; j++)

data[i,j] = 0;
```

128 page faults

Homework

Abraham Silberschatz, Peter Baer Galvin, Greg Gagne, Operating System Concepts, 9th edition, 2013

Compulsory:

- Problem: 9.3, 9.8, 9.19, 9.21, 9.22, 9.31, 9.35.
- Programming: 9.39

Thank you! Q&A